

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15 (canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) A fuel injector for use in projecting directly into a combustion chamber of an internal combustion engine, the fuel injector comprising:

a fuel inlet;

a movable valve-closure member;

a fixed valve seat element to cooperate with the valve-closure member to open and close a valve; and

a downstream valve end including an outlet component and a fuel outlet, wherein:

the fuel outlet includes at least one discharge orifice of the outlet component,

the outlet component including the at least one discharge orifice is arranged directly downstream of the fixed valve seat element and permanently joined to the fixed valve seat element, and

the outlet component includes a coating around the at least one discharge orifice, including at least in an immediate exterior of an outlet area of the at least one discharge orifice.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Canceled).

19. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector of claim 16, wherein the internal combustion engine includes an externally supplied ignition.

20. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector of claim 16, wherein the internal combustion engine includes an auto-ignition.

21. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector of claim 16, wherein the coating is provided in a ring shape around the at least one discharge orifice on a downstream exterior surface of the outlet component, and wherein the coating includes a layer containing fluorosilicate.

22. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector of claim 16, wherein the coating is provided over an entire surface of a downstream exterior surface of the outlet component, and wherein the coating includes a layer containing fluorosilicate.

23. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector of claim 21, wherein the coating extends into the at least one discharge orifice.

24. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector of claim 21, wherein the layer containing fluorosilicate is applied by one of spraying and dipping.

25. (Previously Presented) The fuel injector of claim 22, wherein the coating extends into the at least one discharge orifice.